

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12544 081529Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 OMB-01 OC-05

CCO-00 EB-07 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SCS-03

USSS-00 SCCT-01 CU-02 /112 W
----- 034425

O 081420Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6565

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMMSIXTH FLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 12544 081529Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT FIGHTING ESCALATES AGAIN

REF: BEIRUT 12479 (7 OCT 75 1451Z)

SUMMARY: SECTIONS OF BEIRUT WITNESSED HEAVY CLASHES NIGHT OF OCT 7-8 AND INTO OCT 8. PROGRESS ON THE POLITICAL FRONT AWAITS TOMORROW'S SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE "DIALOGUE". HOWEVER, AS BEFORE, PARTICIPANTS IN THAT MEETING MAY HAVE TO FOCUS ON SECURITY PROBLEM IF MAJOR CLASHES OCCUR AGAIN TONIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. A RESUMPTION OF HEAVY SHOOTING AND EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED NIGHT OF OCT 7-8 IN SEVERAL PARTS OF BEIRUT, CONTINUING INTO OCT 8. CHIYAH AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH WERE THE SCENE OF CLASHES WHICH AT TIMES RIVALED IN INTENSITY THE HOTTEST PERIOD A FEW WEEKS AGO. A MORTAR ROUND KILLED AND WOUNDED MANY PEOPLE ON STREET IN FRONT OF BAKERY IN MOSLEM AREA DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS, RAISING EMOTIONS AMONG CITY'S MOSLEMS. AT MID-MORNING TODAY THE FIGHTING SUBSIDED, BUT IT PICKED UP AGAIN LATER IN CITY CENTER WHERE CLASHES CONTINUE AS OF 1400 HOURS (LOCAL). A CURFEW WAS REESTABLISHED COVERING ALL OF BEIRUT STARTING TONIGHT. THE ELABORATELY CONSTRUCTED CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN JEOPARDY AS MANY PRIVATE MILITAMEN ARE REPORTED PREPARING TO RETURN TO BARRICADES.

2. REPORTS FROM NORTH LEBANON INDICATE CONTINUED FIGHTING IN THE ZGHORTA AREA. INTERNAL SECURITY HQ IN BEIRUT TOLD US AT 0900 HOURS (LOCAL) TODAY THAT THE NORTH WAS QUIET AS OF THAT TIME, BUT PICTURE IS MURKY. KIDNAPPINGS AND EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN AREAS ARE KEEPING TENSIONS HIGH THERE. THE FLUCTUATING CLASHES ARE PROVING HARD TO STOP DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF THE ARMY.

3. RENEWED VIOLENCE AGAIN BROUGHT INCIDENT ECONOMIC REAWAKENING TO HALT, AND FEW SHOPS AND NO BANKS OPENED. TODAY'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 12544 081529Z

MEETING OF BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERS TO DISCUSS OPERATING PROBLEMS UNDER CURRENT SECURITY CONDITIONS WAS CANCELLED. CATHOLIC EDUCATION LEADERS MET YESTERDAY TO CONSIDER OPENING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. ANNOUNCEMENT SAID A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WOULD DECIDE ABOUT OPENING OF SCHOOLS ON A REGION BY REGION BASIS AS SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT. ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED ABOUT A WEEK AGO THAT LOCAL ARABIC SCHOOLS WOULD OPEN ON SCHEDULE ON OCT 15 IF SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT, WE

UNDERSTAND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS NOW CONSIDERING POSTPONE-
MENT. TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, THE NEW
CURFEW EXEMPTS HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES, BAKERY WORKERS, AND
SIMILAR PERSONNEL. SO FAR, ROUND FOUR HAS NOW SERIOUSLY DIS-
RUPTED MOST ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR THREE WEEKS.

4. THERE IS LITTLE VISIBLE PROGRESS ON POLITICAL FRONT PENDING
TOMORROW'S RESUMPTION OF "NATIONAL DIALOGUE COM-
MITTEE". IF FIGHTING FLARES TONIGHT, LEADERS BOTH INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE THE "DIALOGUE" ARE APT TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH IMMEDIATE
SECURITY ISSUE. THE "DIALOGUE" HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ADDRESS
THE LONG-TERM ISSUES FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED.

5. THE MARONITE PATRIARCH CONFERRED YESTERDAY WITH
CAMILLE CHAMOUN, RAYMOND EDDE, AND PIERRE GEMAYEL IN
A WIDELY PUBLICIZED MEETING AT BKERKE. THESE THREE TOP
MARONITE POLITICIANS ARE PERENNIAL RIVALS, AND THE PATRIARCH
APPARENTLY MADE AN EFFORT TO RECONCILE THEM. THE MAIN RESULT
OF THE MEETING WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE
OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF PARTITIONING LEBANON. ASKED AFTERWARD
IF THE QUESTION OF PRES FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED,
THE PATRIARCH SAID IT HAD NOT ARISEN "BECAUSE WE DID NOT ENVISAGE
THIS EVENTUALITY". MEANWHILE, FRANGIE HAD LUNCH YESTERDAY AT
THE HOME OF PRIMIN KARAME IN A SHOW OF CORDIAL RELATIONS BET-
WEEN THE TWO. OTHER GOVT LEADERS INCLUDING CHAMOUN AND GEN
HANNA SAID WERE ALSO GUESTS.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, PROGRESS REPORTS, CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT12544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0698
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751072/aaaaclox.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 12479
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT FIGHTING ESCALATES AGAIN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006